

# THE MASTER MIND

Novelized by  
Marvin Dana, author  
of "Within the Law,"  
from the suc-  
cessful play by  
Daniel D. Carter



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But the physician allowed a hint of his disturbed thoughts to color his tones as he spoke with an air of almost perfunctory interest.

"And who is the Master Mind, Cortland?"

"The Master Mind," he explained calmly, "is an elusive and elusive. He is, in fact, the most interesting and the most dangerous criminal working today."

"Then you know something of him?"

"To my sorrow," the district attorney admitted grimly. "Why, she fellow has been back of some of the big crimes committed recently. And to make the matter still worse, he has been back of others for years. And think of it, or anybody else apparently knows. He is a mystery to me, to the police, even, as it would seem, to his tools themselves."

"But surely he must have been arrested, convicted, for some of his crimes?"

Wainwright shook his head.

"The authorities of the law have never been able to find the point of his identity."

Forbes uttered an ejaculation of astonishment at the statement, then asked:

"Do you really believe that the fellow is serious, that he will?"

Wainwright bowed a mute affirmative answer to the halting question. Finally he said:

"This man is unlike others who have threatened me. For Henry Allen's

"The Master Mind, the most dangerous criminal today."

He hates me. He means to be revenged on me for Henry Allen's death. And what the Master Mind plans he accomplishes. That's his record through years of crime. Now he sends me a white card to warn me that I am to pay the penalty of my offense against him."

Wainwright picked up the square of cardboard and regarded it curiously. "It doesn't seem formidable," he went on, turning it over to show the blank surface. "It is to serve merely as a reminder to me that the Master Mind has not forgotten his purpose toward me. There are other blank cards to come, merely reminders. But by and by, the Master Mind says here, there will come a red card to warn me that the appointed time is near at hand. And then, last there will be a black card to tell that the time is come for the Master Mind to strike me down. No, I am not afraid now. But when the black card comes."

And silence fell.

CHAPTER II.  
By Devious Ways.

In the weeks immediately following the conviction of Henry Allen the brother of the condemned set himself with fanatic zeal to preparations that should lead to the consummation of the vengeance on Cortland Wainwright. To the achievement of this purpose the Master Mind put in operation the myriad methods of the underworld with which he was familiar for the gathering of information in detail concerning the private life of the man whom he regarded as his enemy. Through various subterranean channels at his command, knowledge flowed in. He learned es-

pecially all there was to know of Wainwright's family, of his boyhood, of his life in school, in college, and afterward in the world of affairs, where, though still a young man, he had won distinction from the respectful liking of his fellows.

But the Master Mind found no solace in sifting the mass of material thus placed at his command concerning the foe. From all the evidence the truth appeared incontestable that Cortland Wainwright had lived a clean life; that there was no stigma of scandal hidden within his experience to be fearfully guarded from the public eye. Finally, when all other methods of search had availed naught, the departure of his intended victim for a vacation trip to Europe inspired him with a plan of action characteristically audacious.

His resolution once taken, Andrew Allen lost no time in the accomplishment of his scheme. He was possessed of money a-plenty, and bribery will accomplish modern miracles, especially when accompanied by a guaranty of immunity from any ill consequences of discovery. As a messenger for him, sent he held an interview with the janitor of the building in which was Wainwright's apartment. The result was that within a week of the district attorney's sailing the Master Mind was snugly at home in his enemy's house, there to live and there to study at his leisure the owner of the place, there to learn the vulnerable point toward which to direct attack; for now, the plotter had come to believe that he must seek to trap his quarry by some device against the strength of the man's nature, since he could discover no vital weakness anywhere; against the good qualities, since the evil were of a kind too trifling to serve.

Other dwellers in the building never guessed that a stealthy guest lurked in the apartment which the district attorney had left untenanted for the period of his trip abroad. By day as well as by night the shades remained drawn. Over the whole inner surface of the windows, Andrew had arranged light proof coverings, through which no least ray from the electric lamps could penetrate to give a hint of his occupancy. A very slight opening of the windows gave him sufficient fresh air, and throughout the hours of day as of darkness the artificial illumination sufficed him.

Indeed, the Master Mind found himself strangely content in this curious sort of intimate association with the man against whom he maneuvered so craftily. He experienced a subtle, dimly joy in feeling this nearness to his prey which was the product of the surroundings. Here were the books Wainwright read, the letters he received, the pictures he esteemed, the various souvenirs he most cherished. In the assembling of the varied articles within this home, there must be a measure of testimony from which to judge the inner, vital nature of the owner. It might easily be that some record would suggest the precise course to bring down on him shame and despair.

Having thus molded circumstances to his will, the Master Mind spent two weeks in exhaustive research into the mind and heart of Wainwright as they were respectively indicated by his personal accumulations. His painstaking investigations convinced Andrew of two facts that were beyond question—the first, that the young lawyer had a heart capable of tenderest affections, as was witnessed by the letters from mother and sister, which were to one manifestly fond; the second, that he ruled his life according to the dictates of a lofty ambition.

Convinced of the twin truths, the Master Mind determined broadly the manner of his attack. It must be the contriving of some situation that would strike its agony into the depths of the man's being, something to wound beyond remedy both brain and heart. The exact plan could be left for future arrangement, depending on facts yet to be marshaled. And then, within twenty-four hours, the Master Mind came on the thing he sought.

This was a journal, with entries covering a number of years, in which Wainwright had jotted down rough notes of many things. Andrew had early found it in one of the locked drawers of the desk in the district attorney's study. The searcher had glanced through the volume hastily.

(To Be Continued.)

In a speech before a meeting of Republicans in Kansas City, Mo., former President Taft spoke emphatically of the necessity of unity behind President Wilson at the present time.

The battleship New Hampshire came into Newport News with a broken prow, boiler blade and in need of coal. Her injury will keep her from the remainder of the war game. The new destroyer Nicholson arrived from Philadelphia with her fore topmast gone.

## SHERWOOD IMPROVING. HAS BRAIN CONCUSSION

The condition of S. W. Sherwood of 922 Madison avenue, who met yesterday, with a serious motorcycle accident near Pine Bluff, Stamford and was removed to the Bridgeport hospital in the Emergency ambulance, is improving. Sherwood, who became confused at the approach of an automobile and lost control of his machine on the hill, suffers from concussion of the brain. He was picked up by residents in the vicinity after the automobile that caused his mishap had proceeded on its way without offering assistance.

## BOY NEARLY HANGS.

In an attempt to hang by his chin in a loop of rope tied fast to the roof-rider of a woodshed a little Hungarian boy on the West side is said to have nearly hung himself Saturday. The police have been investigating but arrived at the conclusion that it was merely a childish prank.

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Pierre Martin, the inventor of a process for making steel, which by 1913 was employed in producing two-thirds of the world's steel supply, died at Paris. The Steel Institute of England on May 13 awarded Martin the Bessemer gold medal.

## Financial

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